

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 03554 181048Z

50

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3295

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 3554

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, SN, ID, MY, UK, TH

SUBJ: LEE KUAN YEW-SUHARTO MEETING

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 4763 (NOTAL)

1. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS AUGUST 15 WITH GOS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER (AND DEFENSE MINISTER) GOH KENG SWEE AND INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR HENDRANINGRAT, AMBASSADOR WAS TOLD THAT MEETING BETWEEN SINGAPORE PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW AND INDONESIAN PRESIDENT SUHARTO IS NOW SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 3-5 IN BALI.

2. HENDRANINGRAT SAID HE HAD TAKEN OPPORTUNITY DURING SINGAPORE NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION AUGUST 10 TO ASK PM LEE WHAT HE WOULD WANT TO DISCUSS WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO, AND PM REPLIED "THE SITUATION IN THAILAND".

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PAGE 02 SINGAP 03554 181048Z

3. ADDITIONAL TOPIC FOR LEE KUAN YEW-SUHARTO DISCUSSIONS

WAS REVEALED BY DEPUTY PM GOH, WHO IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON PROGRESS MADE BY GOS IN SETTING UP JUNGLE WARFARE TRAINING SCHOOL IN BRUNEI, STATED THAT THIS MATTER WOULD BE RAISED BY PM LEE WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO AT BALI. GOS BELIEVED THAT INDONESIANS WOULD RESPOND POSITIVELY TO EXPLANATION OF WHY SINGAPORE FELT IT NEEDED JUNGLE WARFARE TRAINING FACILITIES IN BRUNEI, AND WITH THIS POSITIVE SUPPORT IN HAND GOS COULD GO TO UK AND BRING THE BRITISH ABOARD. NEXT STEP WOULD BE FOR SINGAPORE TO INFORM THE MALAYSIANS, AND THEN, SAID GOH, "WE WILL WANT TO TALK TO YOU (THE US)".

4. AS FOOTNOTE TO CHOICE OF BALI AS VENUE FOR LEE KUAN YEW-SUHARTO TALKS, HENDRANINGRAT CONFIRMED THAT INDONESIANS WERE HOLDING FIRMLY TO BALI AS SITE FOR ASEAN SUMMIT MEETING. AS SOP TO LEE KUAN YEW FOR HIS SUGGESTION THAT SUMMIT BE HELD IN THAILAND, INDONESIANS WOULD AGREE TO HOLDING PREPARATORY ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN BANGKOK.

5. COMMENT. IT SEEMS EVIDENT FROM GOH'S AND HENDRANINGRAT'S COMMENTS ON SUBJECTS FOR LEE KUAN YEW-SUHARTO TALKS THAT SECURITY SITUATION IN THAILAND AND MALAYSIA CONTINUES TO WEIGH HEAVILY ON LEE KUAN YEW'S MIND. FROM REFTEL WE NOTE THAT GOS HAS ALREADY DEVIATED FROM SEQUENCE OF EVENTS OUTLINED BY GOH KENG SWEE RE BRIEFINGS ON BRUNEI JUNGLE WARFARE SCHOOL, BUT WE ASSUME THAT GOS WILL INDEED SEEK INDONESIANS SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL TO BOLSTER ITS CASE WITH THE BRITISH AND MALAYSIANS. GOH'S REMARKS ARE THE FIRST HINT WE HAVE RECEIVED OF A POSSIBLE US ROLE IN BRUNEI. WE WILL REMAIN NONCOMMITTAL IN THIS SCORE. HOLDRIDGE

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